

Discover the Delta Foundation

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May 2, 2008

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Ken Scheidegger, President, Board of Directors

Subject: Status of Discover the Delta Foundation Information and Visitor Center and Signage Program

Commissioners:

Again, sincere and deep thanks to the Commission for its continued support of the program and mission of the Discover the Delta Foundation and its quest to better inform the public about the rich history and diverse natural beauties and bounty of the California Delta. The Commission's early support of the Delta signage program (March 2005) has helped the Foundation move forward. This is a key time in the Delta's history and it is critical that the California public hear and understand the history and science of the Delta from Delta voices.

A report outlining Foundation activities during 2006 and 2007 is at the printer and will be mailed to each of you shortly.

The signage program is well underway. As you know, all five of the Delta Counties committed to installed brown "scallop" signs that say "Welcome to the Delta" along County roads as they enter the Delta. The Foundation has been installing the signs with a color logo designed by Delta artist Marty Stanley along the State Highways and freeways that enter the Delta. We have been working with local landowners to place these signs on private lands adjacent to the State rights-of-way.

The Foundation would like to thank Marty Stanley's family and the Delta landowners that graciously allowed the signs on their lands for their help in this project.

The Delta Center is also well on its way. As you know the Center will be an ADA compliant, two story building totally 7,500 square feet located on the south side of Highway 12 in Sacramento County. The first floor will include: a visitor information center and gift shop and permanent and rotating science-based displays on the natural

history and natural resources of the Delta. The Center will include information from the State agencies represented on the Delta Protection Commission. The second floor will include a timeline of Delta history and displays describing key events and influences in the human use and development of the Delta. Upstairs can also serve as a meeting area and will house a reference area. The Center's grounds will provide ample parking and an outdoor gathering area under an arbor.

The Foundation has undertaken the many steps required to design and obtain permits for the Center:

- Select site
- Determine appropriate parcel size
- Negotiate acquisition from landowner
- Prepare lease agreement for interim period prior to parcel acquisition
- Prepare appraisal (Pending; due mid-May)
- Submit and process Use Permit from Sacramento County
- Prepare and process environmental document for Use Permit
- Prepare Grading Plans (Pending; due mid-May)
- Prepare Building Plans (Pending; due mid-May)
- Prepare Interior Floor Plans (Pending; due mid-May)
- Prepare Engineering drawings(Pending; due mid-May)
- Prepare 3-dimentional Exterior Drawings
- Prepare construction cost estimate
- Prepare estimate of well drilling costs
- Prepare sewer estimate
- Prepare estimate of grading costs
- Prepare estimate of parking lot construction
- Prepare Fund Raising Case describing funding needs and opportunities
- Prepare preliminary concept plans for all displays, including dimensions
- Solicit peer review/comment on preliminary concept plans for all displays
- Prepare 2006-2007 Update Report
- Open interim office at Riverboat Marina (adjacent to Riverboat Restaurant)

The Foundation has just started the 2008 membership and fundraising drive. The goal of the current drive is to raise funds from private parties and business owners, landowners and local groups in and around the Delta and in-kind donations to cover the cost of the building and site improvements including landscaping. The Foundation will seek funds from other private and public sources to offset costs of designing and installing the informational displays and furnishing the Center (desks, chairs, computers, etc).

The Foundation is planning on the Center developing a positive income stream through merchandising, (approximately 5% of floor space), and visitor-serving programs (tours, etc.). The positive income stream would pay for staff and building O&M.

We hope the Commission will continue to support the program of the Foundation and the Delta Center. Please call if you have any questions regarding this letter.